



Big Round Green

Management Plan 2016-2021

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THE WOODLAND TRUST

INTRODUCTION

The Trust's corporate aims and management approach guide the management of all the Trust's properties, and are described on Page 4. These determine basic management policies and methods, which apply to all sites unless specifically stated otherwise. Such policies include free public access; keeping local people informed of major proposed work; the retention of old trees and dead wood; and a desire for management to be as unobtrusive as possible. The Trust also has available Policy Statements covering a variety of woodland management issues.

The Trust's management plans are based on the identification of Key Features for the site and setting objectives for their management. A monitoring programme (not included in this plan) ensures that these objectives are met and any necessary management works are carried out.

Any legally confidential or sensitive species information about this site is not included in this version of the plan.

PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATING

The information presented in this Management plan is held in a database which is continuously being amended and updated on our website. Consequently this printed version may quickly become out of date, particularly in relation to the planned work programme and on-going monitoring observations. Please either consult The Woodland Trust website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk or contact the Woodland Trust (wopsmail@woodlandtrust.org.uk) to confirm details of the current management programme.

There is a formal review of this plan every 5 years and a summary of monitoring results can be obtained on request.

WOODLAND MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management of our woods is based on our charitable purposes, and is therefore focused on improving woodland biodiversity and increasing peoples' understanding and enjoyment of woodland. Our strategic aims are to:

- Protect native woods, trees and their wildlife for the future
- Work with others to create more native woodlands and places rich in trees
- Inspire everyone to enjoy and value woods and trees

All our sites have a management plan which is freely accessible via our website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. Our woods are managed to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) and are certified with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) under licence FSC-C009406 and through independent audit.

In addition to the guidelines below we have specific guidance and policies on issues of woodland management which we review and update from time to time.

We recognise that all woods are different and that the management of our sites should also reflect their local landscape and where appropriate support local projects and initiatives. Guidelines like these provide a necessary overarching framework to guide the management of our sites but such management also requires decisions based on local circumstances and our Site Manager's intimate knowledge of each site.

The following guidelines help to direct our woodland management:

1. Our woods are managed to maintain their intrinsic key features of value and to reflect those of the surrounding landscape. We intervene when there is evidence that it is necessary to maintain or improve biodiversity and to further the development of more resilient woods and landscapes.
2. We establish new native woodland using both natural regeneration and tree planting, but largely the latter, particularly when there are opportunities for involving people.
3. We provide free public access to woods for quiet, informal recreation and our woods are managed to make them accessible, welcoming and safe.
4. The long term vision for our non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites is to restore them to predominantly native species composition and semi-natural structure, a vision that equally applies to our secondary woods.
5. Existing semi-natural open-ground and freshwater habitats are restored and maintained wherever their management can be sustained and new open ground habitats created where appropriate.
6. The heritage and cultural value of sites is taken into account in our management and, in particular, our ancient trees are retained for as long as possible.
7. Woods can offer the potential to generate income both from the sustainable harvesting of wood products and the delivery of other services. We will therefore consider the potential to generate income from our estate to help support our aims.
8. We work with neighbours, local people, organisations and other stakeholders in developing the management of our woods. We recognise the benefits of local community woodland ownership and management. Where appropriate we allow our woods to be used to support local woodland, conservation, education and access initiatives.
9. We use and offer the estate where appropriate, for the purpose of demonstration, evidence gathering and research associated with the conservation, recreational and sustainable management of woodlands. In particular we will develop and maintain a network of long-term monitoring sites across the estate.
- 10 Any activities we undertake will conform to sustainable forest management principles, be appropriate for the site and will be balanced with our primary objectives of enhancing the biodiversity and recreational value of our woods and the wider landscapes.

SUMMARY

This public management plan briefly describes the site, specifically mentions information on public access, sets out the long term policy and lists the Key Features which drive management actions. The Key Features are specific to this site - their significance is outlined together with their long (50 year+) and short (5 year) term objectives. The short term objectives are complemented by a detailed Work Programme for the period of this management plan. Detailed compartment descriptions are listed in the appendices which include any major management constraints and designations. A short glossary of technical terms is at the end. The Key Features and general woodland condition of this site are subject to a formal monitoring programme which is maintained in a central database. A summary of monitoring results is available on request.

1.0 SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Big Round Green
Location:	Trapps lane, Chesham
Grid reference:	SP972015, OS 1:50,000 Sheet No. 165
Area:	0.46 hectares (1.14 acres)
Designations:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Registered Common Land, Tree Preservation Order

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Summary Description

Although neither big or round, this is a lovely secluded spot in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The adjoining sunken path is used by riders and walkers and there are some paths within the wood that are also used by local people. It is well placed on local bridleways to provide a place to stop, shelter and enjoy the seclusion.

2.2 Extended Description

Big Round Green is a 0.46ha / 1.13 acre woodland in the Chiltern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, approximately 1.5 km east of Chesham in Buckinghamshire. In plan, it is in fact a triangle-shaped woodland next to agricultural fields and a local historic path called Trapp's Lane, and was acquired by the Woodland Trust in 1986.

Notes provided by Councillor A.H.G Baines provide a detailed historical background to the development of Big Round Green. In essence, it originated as a triangular green, (a 'Three Household' type), characteristic of this part of the Chiltern Hills. In 1900, the green was still grassland except for a strip of ancient oak and hornbeam along the lane-side. By 1925, it was becoming overgrown, though the centre was still fairly clear in the 1930's. In 1948, the wooded strip was protected by a Tree Preservation Order (no.77). The green was designated Public Open Space in the Chesham Town Map of 1961, and was registered as a Common under the Commons Registration Act 1965.

In 1974, following local government reorganisation, the green was vested in the Chesham Town Council by agreement with the Chiltern District Council. In 1986 Big Round Green was leased to the Woodland Trust by the Town Council on a 199 year term.

The remnants of formerly laid hornbeam hedges are still present on the site boundaries and are now becoming interesting relict features.

Like many woodlands in the Chilterns, this site was affected by storm damage in the gales of 1987 and 1990, and it is now composed of mature trees, (oak, ash, cherry, field maple and hornbeam), some over one hundred years old, young regeneration and a growing deadwood habitat.

3.0 PUBLIC ACCESS INFORMATION

3.1 Getting there

Getting there: Big Round Green is an isolated wood about 1 mile directly east of Chesham and has to be accessed via public rights of way. Chesham has a railway station on the Metropolitan Line to London. A bus service runs from Chesham to the Wild Rover public house, Red Lion Street, Chesham - from there, it is a twenty minute walk to Rose Drive at the top of Pheasants Rise where a bridleway leaves the road (at grid reference SP968010) en route to Big Round Wood. This is also the nearest car parking place. From the start of the bridleway (Trapps Lane) to the wood, it is approximately 720 metres. The bridleway can be muddy during wet weather.

At the entrances to the wood, there are squeeze gaps leaving a width of approximately 50cms to allow pedestrians to pass but exclude vehicles. The paths are approximately 1.5metres wide and the woodland is relatively flat. The length of the paths in the wood is approximately 240 metres in length

All distances are approximate.

Public conveniences: There are public conveniences in Chesham (Star Yard and The Moor) - for further details see www.chiltern.gov.uk or call 01494 729000.

For further information about public transport, contact Traveline - www.traveline.org.uk or phone 0871 200 22 33 .

3.2 Access / Walks

4.0 LONG TERM POLICY

This small but interesting area of woodland in the Chilterns will contribute to the Woodland Trust's aims of no further loss of ancient woodland, while enhancing woodland biodiversity and providing informal public access to woodland.

Principally, the woodland will be managed by minimum intervention to allow natural processes to shape the future diversity and structure. Mature trees will be left to gradually decline and provide important niche habitats within the wood, except if they pose a significant tree safety risk. Any trees that are felled or collapse naturally will be retained on site to provide a succession of dead wood habitat which will add to the biodiversity interest, particularly for invertebrates and fungi. The gaps left by these trees will provide space and light for natural succession to take place.

Observations will be carried out to record any factors causing change that may be detrimental to the vitality and structure of the woodland. For example there should be no damaging invasive species present on the site, and the likely colonisation by ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) and other pests and diseases monitored and managed where necessary.

The public's enjoyment of the woodland will be continued by maintaining an accessible and safe network of paths and rides. Entrances, boundary fences, and benches will be maintained as necessary and the access provision will be monitored and provided in line with a Category C access site: Low usage sites where we do maintain paths.

5.0 KEY FEATURES

The Key Features of the site are identified and described below. They encapsulate what is important about the site. The short and long-term objectives are stated and any management necessary to maintain and improve the Key Feature.

5.1

Description
Significance
Opportunities & Constraints
Factors Causing Change
Long term Objective (50 years+)
Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

5.2

Description

Significance

Opportunities & Constraints

Factors Causing Change

Long term Objective (50 years+)

Short term management Objectives for the plan period (5 years)

6.0 WORK PROGRAMME

Year	Type of Work	Description	Due By
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APPENDIX 1: COMPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Cpt No.	Area (ha)	Main Species	Year	Management Regime	Major Management Constraints	Key Features Present	Designations
1a	0.46	Oak (pedunculate)	1900	Min-intervention	Landscape factors, No/poor vehicular access to the site, No/poor vehicular access within the site		Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Registered Common Land, Tree Preservation Order

Compartment 1 covers the whole woodland site, and is composed of mostly mature oak (*Quercus robur*), with scattered single ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), cherry (*Prunus avium*), field maple (*Acer campestre*) and hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*). Within the understory there are frequent hornbeam saplings with shrub species of holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and elder (*Sambucus nigra*). Approximately 13% of the area has a relatively open canopy which will allow any advanced regeneration to develop. The compartment also comprises ancient hornbeam coppice on the western boundary.

GLOSSARY

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woods are defined as those where there has been continuous woodland cover since at least 1600 AD. In Scotland ancient woods are defined strictly as sites shown as semi-natural woodland on the 'Roy' maps (a military survey carried out in 1750 AD, which is the best source of historical map evidence) and as woodland all subsequent maps. However, they have been combined with long-established woods of semi-natural origin (originating from between 1750 and 1860) into a single category of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland to take account of uncertainties in their identification. Ancient woods include Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland and plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (see below). May support many species that are only found in ancient woodland.

Ancient Semi - Natural Woodland

Stands in ancient woods defined as those consisting predominantly of native trees and shrubs that have not obviously been planted, which have arisen from natural regeneration or coppice regrowth.

Ancient Woodland Site

Stands in ancient woods that have been converted to plantations, of coniferous, broadleaved or mixed species, usually for timber production, including plantations of native species planted so closely together that any semi-natural elements of the understorey have been suppressed.

Beating Up

Replacing any newly planted trees that have died in the first few years after planting.

Broadleaf

A tree having broad leaves (such as oak) rather than needles found on conifers (such as Scots pine).

Canopy

The uppermost layer of vegetation in a woodland, or the upper foliage and branches of an individual tree.

Clearfell

Felling of all trees within a defined area.

Compartment

Permanent management division of a woodland, usually defined on site by permanent features such as roads. See Sub-compartments.

Conifer

A tree having needles, rather than broadleaves, and typically bearing cones.

Continuous Cover forestry

A term used for managing woods to ensure that there are groups or individual trees of different ages scattered over the whole wood and that some mature tree cover is always maintained. Management is by repeated thinning and no large areas are ever completely felled all at once.

Coppice

Trees which are cut back to ground levels at regular intervals (3-25 years).

Exotic (non-native) Species

Species originating from other countries (or other parts of the UK) that have been introduced by humans, deliberately or accidentally.

Field Layer

Layer of small, non-woody herbaceous plants such as bluebells.

Group Fell

The felling of a small group of trees, often to promote natural regeneration or allow planting.

Long Term Retention

Discrete groups of trees (or in some cases single trees) that are retained significantly past their economic felling age. Operations may still be carried out within them and thinning is often necessary to maintain stability.

Minimum Intervention

Areas where no operations (such as thinning) will take place other than to protect public safety or possibly to control invasive exotic species.

Mixed Woodland

Woodland made up of broadleaved and coniferous trees.

National vegetation classification (NVC)

A classification scheme that allows an area of vegetation to be assigned to the standardised type that best matches the combination of plant species that it contains. All woodlands in the UK can be described as being one of 18 main woodland types (W1 - W18), which principally reflect soil and climatic conditions. For example, Upland Oakwoods are type W11, and normally occur on well drained infertile soils in the cooler and wetter north and west of Britain. Each main type can be subdivided into numerous subtypes. Most real woods contain more than one type or sub-type and inevitably some woods are intermediate in character and can't be properly described by any sub type.

Native Species

Species that arrived in Britain without human assistance.

Natural Regeneration

Naturally grown trees from seeds falling from mature trees. Also regeneration from coppicing and suckering.

Origin & Provenance

The provenance of a tree or seed is the place where seed was collected to grow the tree or plant. The origin is the geographical location within the natural range of a species from where seeds/tree originally derives. Thus an acorn collected from a Turkey oak in Edinburgh would have an Edinburgh provenance and a southern European origin.

Re-Stocking

Re-planting an area of woodland, after it has been felled.

Shrub Layer

Formed by woody plants 1-10m tall.

Silviculture

The growing and care of trees in woodlands.

Stand

Trees of one type or species, grouped together within a woodland.

Sub-Compartment

Temporary management division of a compartment, which may change between management plan periods.

Thinning

The felling of a proportion of individual trees within a given area. The remaining trees grow to fill in the space created.

Tubex or Grow or Tuley Tubes

Tubes placed over newly planted trees or natural regeneration that promote growth and provide protection from animals such as rabbits and deer.

Weeding

The control of vegetation immediately around newly planted trees or natural regeneration to promote tree growth until they become established. Either by hand cutting or with carefully selected weed killers such as glyphosate.

Windblow/Windthrow

Trees or groups of trees blown over (usually uprooted) by strong winds and gales.